

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The Examiner has objected to the drawings filed on March 26, 2001 asserting that Figures 10(a) and 10(b) should be designated by a legend such as "PRIOR ART." Accordingly, Applicant has labeled Figures 10(a) and 10(b) as "RELATED ART" and Applicant has submitted a replacement sheet with this Amendment.

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes the following changes:

In Fig. 10(a), the "RELATED ART" label is added.

In Fig. 10(b), the "RELATED ART" label is added.

Attachment: (1) Replacement Sheet

**REMARKS**

**I. Formalities**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the Request filed on 1/10/06 for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for considering all the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 24, 2005.

**II. Status of the Application**

By the present amendment, claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17 have been amended. Claims 4-7 and 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application, with claims 1, 9 and 10 being independent form.

The present amendment addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**III. Statement of Substance of Interview**

A personal interview, initiated by Applicant's representative, was conducted on July 18, 2006, between Examiner Gautam R. Patel of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and Applicant's representative, Andrew J. Taska.

The purpose of the interview was to discuss the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action dated March 6, 2006.

During the interview, the outstanding Objections to the Drawings, Claim Objections, Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 were discussed. In particular, claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17 were discussed.

With respect to the outstanding Objections to the Drawings and Claim Objections, Applicant's representative pointed out to the Examiner that the features of "a drive signal detecting device," "a setting device for setting said drive signal" and "a stillness detecting device," as recited in the pending claims, are shown, for example, in Figures 1, 4 and 7 as microcomputer 14.

Applicant's representative also discussed the possibility of amending the specification on page 18, line 13 to clarify that the microcomputer 14 is "a drive signal detectingdetermining device," and the Examiner agreed that such an amendment would not constitute new matter. Further, Applicant's representative explained to the Examiner that the feature of "a stillness detecting device," is shown, for example, in Figure 1 as a carriage home position sensing portion 23.

With respect to the outstanding Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Applicant's representative discussed the possibility of amending the claims 1-3 and 9-12 to recite "detecting determining a detected-value," and the Examiner agreed that such amendments may obviate the outstanding Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Further, Applicant's representative explained to the Examiner that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily discern from the specification, for instance, that "the level of the drive signal Sa at that time," as described on page 25, line 14, corresponds to "a value of said drive

signal,” as recited in claim 1. That is, Applicant representative explained that, according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the feature of “detecting a value of said drive signal,” as recited in the pending claims, corresponds to detecting the value of the drive signal Sa at the time when the carriage motor 8 is started to be driven due to an increased level of the drive signal Sa. The Examiner agreed to reconsider the allowability of the pending claims in light of the discussion outlined above.

With respect to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102, Applicant’s representative argued that Hamada’s position detector 6, estimation means 32 and external disturbance signal modifier 31 are completely different from “a drive signal detecting device for detecting a detected value of said drive signal,” as recited in claim 1, in that position detector 6, estimation means 32 and external disturbance signal modifier 31 do not detect a drive signal. In light of such arguments, the Examiner agreed that the cited Hamada reference would have to be considered in greater detail to determine whether the current rejections of record are proper.

No exhibits or demonstrations were provided by Applicant’s representatives.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.2 and 1.133 and MPEP §713.04.

#### **IV. Drawings Objections**

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83 (a), alleging that the features of “a drive signal detecting device,” “a setting device for setting said drive signal” and “a still detecting device,” must be shown in the drawings or the features canceled from the

claims. (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 2). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objections for *at least* the following reasons.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that claims 1-17 clearly do not include the recitation of "a still detecting device," as alleged in the grounds of rejection. Nevertheless, Applicant assumes that the Examiner intended to allege that the feature of a "stillness detecting device," must be shown in the drawings or the features canceled from the claims.

First, with respect to the recitation of "a drive signal detecting device," Applicant notes that the pending claims have been amended, as set forth above, to recite the feature of "a drive signal ~~detecting~~ determining device." Further, Applicant notes that the present specification has also been amended, as set forth above, to recite "a microcomputer 14 that is a drive signal ~~detecting~~ determining device," and that the Examiner agreed during the interview conducted on July 18, 2006, that such amendments do not introduce new matter to the originally filed specification.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Figures 1, 4 and 7 clearly show the microcomputer 14, which according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, corresponds to "a drive signal determining device," as recited in the pending claims. For instance, page 23, line 22 through page 27, line 4 of the specification clearly explains that the microcomputer 14, for example, corresponds to a drive signal determining device for determining a value of said drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state, as claimed. In particular, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to operations S2 and S3, as

described in the present specification. (Page 23, line 22—page 27, line 4; Figure 2).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the current drawings show the feature of “a drive signal detecting device,” for *at least* these reasons and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Second, with respect to the recitation of “a setting device for setting said drive signal,” Applicant respectfully submits that Figures 1, 4 and 7 clearly show the microcomputer 14, which according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, corresponds to “a setting device for setting said drive signal,” as recited in the pending claims. For instance, page 23, line 22 through page 27, line 4 of the specification clearly explains that the microcomputer 14, for example, corresponds to a setting device for setting said drive signal based on said detected value when the information is recorded or reproduced, as claimed. In particular, Applicant directs the Examiner’s attention to operation S4, as described in the present specification. (Page 23, line 22—page 27, line 4; Figure 2). Moreover, page 18, lines 13-15 of the present specification makes it clear that the microcomputer 14 corresponds to (among other things) a setting device. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the current drawings show the feature of “a setting device for setting said drive signal for *at least* these reasons and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Finally, with respect to the recitation “a stillness detecting device,” Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 1 clearly shows a carriage home position sensing portion 23, which according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, corresponds to “a stillness detecting device,” as recited in the pending claims. For example, the present specification

expressly describes “a carriage home position sensing portion 23 that is a stillness detecting device.” (Page 18, lines 13-15). Therefore, “a stillness detecting device” is clearly shown, for example, as a carriage home position sensing portion 23 in Figure 1. As such, Applicant submits that the current drawings show all the claimed features for *at least* these reasons and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings, alleging that Figures 10(a) and 10(b) are not designated by a legend such as “Prior Art.” (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 2). Applicant has hereby amended Figures 10(a) and 10(b) to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Thus, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

#### **V. Claim Objections**

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17, alleging that it is not clear from the drawings or the specification where the elements: “a drive signal detecting device,” “a setting device for setting said drive signal” and a “still detecting device” are located and how are they connected to each other. (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 3).

As an initial matter, Applicant again notes that claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17 clearly do not include the recitation of “a still detecting device,” as alleged in the grounds of rejection. Nevertheless, Applicant assumes that the Examiner intended to allege that the feature of a “stillness detecting device,” must be shown in the drawings or the features canceled from the claims.

As already explained above, with respect to the recitation of “a drive signal detecting device,” Applicant notes that the pending claims have been amended, as set forth above, to recite

the feature of “a drive signal ~~detecting~~determining device.” Further, Applicant notes that the present specification has also been amended, as set forth above, to recite “a microcomputer 14 that is a drive signal ~~detecting~~determining device,” and that the Examiner agreed during the interview conducted on July 18, 2006, that such amendments do not introduce new matter to the originally filed specification.

Therefore, in light of the above, Applicant submits that Figures 1, 4 and 7 clearly show the microcomputer 14, which according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, corresponds to “a drive signal determining device,” as recited in the pending claims. For instance, page 23, line 22 through page 27, line 4 of the specification clearly explains that the microcomputer 14, for example, corresponds to a drive signal determining device for determining a value of said drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state, as claimed. In particular, Applicant directs the Examiner’s attention to operations S2 and S3, as described in the present specification. (Page 23, line 22—page 27, line 4; Figure 2).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that both the drawings and the specification make it clear where the recited “drive signal determining device” is located and how it is connected to the other recited claim elements. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Further, with respect to the recitation of “a setting device for setting said drive signal,” as already discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that Figures 1, 4 and 7 clearly show the microcomputer 14, which according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention,

corresponds to “a setting device for setting said drive signal,” as recited in the pending claims. For instance, page 23, line 22 through page 27, line 4 of the specification clearly explains that the microcomputer 14, for example, corresponds to a setting device for setting said drive signal based on said detected value when the information is recorded or reproduced, as claimed. In particular, Applicant directs the Examiner’s attention to operation S4, as described in the present specification. (Page 23, line 22—page 27, line 4; Figure 2). Moreover, page 18, lines 13-15 of the present specification makes it clear that the microcomputer 14 corresponds to (among other things) a setting device.

Hence, Applicant submits that both the drawings and the specification make it clear where the recited “setting device for setting said drive signal” is located and how it is connected to the other recited claim elements. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

With respect to the recitation “a stillness detecting device,” Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 1 clearly shows a carriage home position sensing portion 23, which according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, corresponds to “a stillness detecting device,” as recited in the pending claims. For example, the present specification expressly describes “a carriage home position sensing portion 23 that is a stillness detecting device.” (Page 18, lines 13-15). Therefore, “a stillness detecting device” is clearly shown as a carriage home position sensing portion 23 in Figure 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that both the drawings and the specification make it clear where the recited “a stillness detecting device” is located and how it is connected to the other

recited claim elements. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

**VI. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112**

**A. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 3). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections in this regard for *at least* the reasons stated below.

The Examiner alleges that the recitation "a detected value of said drive signal" required by the claims is not described in the specification. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the specification mentions several drive signals, such as "Sa," "Smd" etc., but does not explain which of these values are so called "a detected value," and how they relate to "the signal detecting device and more importantly which device is being called "a drive signal detecting device." (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 4).

Applicant has amended claims 1-3 and 9-12, as set forth above, to recite the features of, for example, "a drive signal ~~detecting~~determining device for ~~detecting~~determining a ~~detected~~ value of said drive signal," "a process of ~~detecting~~determining a ~~detected~~-value of said drive signal," and "~~detecting~~determining a value of said drive signal," respectively. Further, Applicant notes that the present specification has also been amended, as set forth above, to recite "a microcomputer 14 that is a drive signal ~~detecting~~determining device," and that the Examiner

agreed during the interview conducted on July 18, 2006, that such amendments do not introduce new matter to the originally filed specification.

Further, Applicant submits that the aforementioned features are fully enabled by the specification. The test of enablement is whether one reasonably skilled in the art could make or use the invention from the disclosures in the patent coupled with information known in the art, without undue experimentation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *United States v. Telectronics, Inc.*, 857 F.2d 778, 785, 8 USPQ2d 1217, 1223 (Fed. Cir. 1988). See also: *Mineral Separation v. Hyde*, 242 U.S. 261, 270 (1916); *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988); and MPEP § 2164.01.

The specification describes:

On the other hand, in the judgment of the step S3, the fact that the carriage motor 8 is started to be driven due to an increased level of the drive signal Sa (motor drive signal Smd), and the pickup 1 starts to move, is sensed through change in the signal Shp from "HIGH" to "LOW" (step S3: YES. Refer to a time  $T_1$  at the upper second stage of FIG. 3), the level of the drive signal Sa at that time (this level is a minimum value of the drive signal Sa (in other words, mode drive signal Smd) required for moving the pickup 1) is defined as a reference; the threshold  $V_z$  during information reproduction from the optical disc DK is set (step S4. Refer to the time  $t_1$  at the lowest level of FIG. 3); the set threshold  $V_z$  is stored in a memory (not shown) in the microcomputer 14; change and set processing of the threshold  $V_z$  is terminated; the switch 21 is set to the switch signal Ssw side; and a series of the above described information reproduction processes are started by employing the threshold signal Svz indicating the set threshold  $V_z$ . (Specification page 25, lines 9-16).

Therefore, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily discern from *at least* the above aspect of the specification that, according to one exemplary embodiment, "the level of the drive signal Sa at that time," as described on page 25, line 14, corresponds to "a value of said drive signal," as recited in claim 1. That is, according to one exemplary embodiment, the recited feature of "determining a value of said drive signal," corresponds to determining the value of the drive signal Sa at the time when the carriage motor 8 is started to be driven due to an increased level of the drive signal Sa.

Indeed, as explained in the present specification, “the start of movement of the pickup 1 due to the drive signal Sa during the setting process is recognized in the microcomputer 14 based on the contents of the sensing signal Shp from the carriage home position sensing portion 23 (refer to step S3 of FIG. 2)”. (Specification page 27, lines 13-17). That is, according to one exemplary embodiment, the sensing signal from the carriage home position sensing portion 23 corresponds to Shp. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present specification also makes it clear that the sensing signal Shp does not correspond to the claimed “the drive signal.”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that feature of “determining a value of said drive signal,” as recited in claim 1, is clearly described in the specification such that one reasonably skilled in the art could make or use the invention from the disclosures provided therein, coupled with information known in the art, without undue experimentation.

Further, in response to the Examiner’s assertion that the specification does not explain which device is being called “a drive signal detecting device,” as recited in the pending claims, Applicant notes that the pending claims have been amended, as set forth above, to recite the feature of “a drive signal ~~detecting~~ determining device.”

Moreover, Applicant submits that the specification clearly explains that, according to one exemplary embodiment, the microcomputer 14 corresponds to “a drive signal determining device,” as claimed. Indeed, as already described above, Figures 1, 4 and 7 clearly show the microcomputer 14, which according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, corresponds to “a drive signal determining device,” as recited in the pending claims. For instance, page 23, line 22 through page 27, line 4 of the specification clearly explains that the

microcomputer 14, for example, corresponds to a drive signal determining device for determining a value of said drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state, as claimed. In particular, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to operations S2 and S3, as described in the present specification. (Page 23, line 22—page 27, line 4; Figure 2).

Additionally, in response to the Examiner's assertion that the specification does not explain which device is being called "a drive signal detecting device" and how "a value of said drive signal," relates to "the drive signal detecting device," Applicant again notes that the pending claims have been amended, as set forth above, to recite the feature of "a drive signal ~~detecting~~ determining device." Thus, Applicant submits that, as already explained above, for example, Figures 1, 4 and 7 and specification expressly describe that "a microcomputer 14 that is a drive signal determining device, a setting device, a threshold calculating device, a sensing device, and a time detecting device." (Specification page 18, lines 13-16).

Second, the specification also clearly describes how "a value of said drive signal," as recited in claim 1, relates to "the drive signal determining device." For instance, the specification explains that "the drive signal  $S_a$ ... is defined as a reference; the threshold  $V_z$  during information reproduction from the optical disk DK is set... the set threshold  $V_z$  is stored in a memory (not shown) in the microcomputer 14..." (Specification page 25, lines 15, lines 16-25). That is, according to one exemplary embodiment, threshold  $V_z$  corresponds to "a value of said drive signal," and relates to the microcomputer 14 (which corresponds to "the drive signal determining device"), in that the set threshold  $V_z$  is stored in a memory in the microcomputer 14.

Therefore, Applicant submits that specification clearly describes which device is being called “a drive signal ~~detecting~~determining device” and how “a value of said drive signal,” relates to “the drive signal ~~detecting~~determining device.” Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these rejections for *at least* the reasons discussed above.

**B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner alleges that it is not clear what is meant by the recited “a detected value” and how the detecting device is detecting this already detected value, and also more importantly why already detected value is being detected again, and how this second detection differs from the original detection. (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 4).

Applicant has amended claims 1-3 and 9-12, as set forth above, to recite the feature of “a drive signal ~~detecting~~determining device for ~~detecting~~determining a value of said drive signal.” As such, Applicant submits that the Examiner’s rejections in this regard are now moot. Further, during the interview conducted with the Examiner on July 18, 2006, the Examiner indicated that such amendments may obviate the current rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

**VII. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,375,091 to Hamada et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for *at least* the reasons set forth below.

According to the MPEP, “a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” (MPEP § 2131). Thus, the Examiner’s rejection over Hamada is only proper if Hamada clearly and unequivocally disclose every element and recitation of the claimed invention.

**A. Independent Claim 1**

For instance, independent claim 1 recites (among other things):

...a drive signal determining device for determining a value of said drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state...

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner alleges that position detector 6, estimation means 32 and external disturbance signal modifier 31 correspond to “a drive signal detecting device,” as recited in claim 1. (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 5).

However, Hamada does not provide any disclosure or suggestion whatsoever regarding the feature of “a drive signal determining device,” as recited in claim 1. To the contrary, the position detector 6, estimation means 32 and external disturbance signal modifier 31 disclosed in Hamada are completely different from “a drive signal determining device for determining a value of said drive signal,” as recited in claim 1, in that Hamada’s position detector 6, estimation means 32 and external disturbance signal modifier 31 do not determine the value of a drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state, as claimed.

First, the position detector 6 in Hamada clearly does not determine a value of the drive signal, rather, the position detector 6 merely detects a position error. In fact, Hamada discloses that “[a] position detector 6 comprises an amplifier 7 and a demodulator 8. A servo signal is recorded on the disk 4 and it is read by the head 1, amplified by the amplifier 7 and sent to a demodulator 8 which outputs a position error signal” (emphasis added). (Column 8, lines 50-57). Thus, it is clear from Hamada that the position detector 6 detects a position error, but does not determine a value of the drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state, as recited in claim 1.

Second, Hamada also fails to teach or suggest that either the estimation means 32 or the external disturbance signal modifier 31, which are disclosed therein, determine a value of a drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state, as required by claim 1. The Examiner alleges that col. 17, line 48 to col. 18, line 31 of Hamada discloses the features recited in claim 1. (03/07/2006 Office Action, page 5). However, Applicant respectfully submits that col. 17, line 48 to col. 18, line 31 of Hamada discloses nothing more than that, after power-on, the first external disturbance compensation signal stored in the memory means 30 is zero and that the second external disturbance compensation signal, estimated by the estimation means 32, attempts to cancel the external disturbance. Hamada also discloses that, then, the external disturbance compensation signal modifier 31 stores the sum of the first external disturbance compensation signal and second external disturbance compensation signal in the memory means in accordance

with the position of the head on the disk. That is, col. 17, line 48 to col. 18, line 31 of Hamada disclose nothing more than a basic feedback compensation system.

But, no aspect of Hamada provides any disclosure or suggestion whatsoever regarding the feature of a drive signal determining device for determining a value of said drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state, as recited in claim 1. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Hamada for *at least* these reasons.

**B. Independent Claim 9**

Independent claim 1 recites (among other things):

...a drive signal determining device for determining a value of said drive signal at a time when an increase in a level of the drive signal from a predetermined level causes the carriage device to initially move from a still state...

Regarding claim 9, the Examiner alleges that it is a method claim corresponding to claim 1 and it is therefore rejected for the similar reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1.

In view of the similarity between the recitations of claim 9 and the recitations discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing arguments as to the patentability of independent claim 1 also demonstrate the patentability of claim 9. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references *at least* for reasons analogous to those presented above. Thus, the allowance of this claim is respectfully solicited of the Examiner.

**C. Independent Claim 10**

Independent claim 1 recites (among other things):

...a drive signal determining device for  
determining a value of said drive signal at a  
time when an increase in a level of the drive  
signal from a predetermined level causes the  
carriage device to initially move from a still  
state...

The Examiner alleges that it is a method claim corresponding to claim 1 and it is  
therefore rejected for the similar reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1.

However, in view of the similarity between the recitations of claim 10 and the recitations  
discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing  
arguments as to the patentability of independent claim 1 also demonstrate the patentability of  
claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is patentably distinguishable over the  
cited references *at least* for reasons analogous to those presented above. Thus, the allowance of  
this claim is respectfully solicited of the Examiner.

**VIII. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-3, 8, 11-12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as  
being unpatentable over Hamada in view of Japanese Patent Publication 11-025474 to Yasuhiro  
(hereinafter "Yasuhiro"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for *at least* the  
reasons set forth below.

Claims 2-3, 8, 11-12 and 17 incorporate all the novel and non-obvious recitations of their  
respective base claims 1 and 10. For *at least* the reasons discussed above, Hamada fails to  
disclose or suggest all the recitations of claims 1 and 10. Further, Yasuhiro fails to remedy the

deficient teachings of Hamada. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3, 8, 11-12 and 17 are patentable over the cited reference *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

**IX. Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew J. Taska  
Registration No. 54,666

Date: August 4, 2006